



## MassHealth Fact Sheet – FY10 H.1

### Community First Initiatives



#### **Overview**

The Administration's long-term care policy is Community First, a commitment to ensuring that elders and people with disabilities have access to community-living opportunities and supports that address each individual's diverse needs, abilities and backgrounds. Demographic projections regarding expanding numbers of residents likely to be in need of long-term supports highlight the importance of this policy commitment.

MassHealth is embarking upon several initiatives to provide members with more choices for community-based services. In addition to beginning implementation of the Community First 1115 Demonstration waiver, MassHealth will implement a cash and counseling program for certain long-term care benefits to purchase their own community supports. Settlement of the *Rolland v. Romney* case will expand community care options for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and settlement of the *Hutchinson v. Romney* case will expand important community alternatives for brain-injured adults and seniors.

#### **FY 10 Policy Initiatives**

##### **Community First 1115 Demonstration - \$21M Investment**

H.1 includes \$21M to begin offering new services under the new Community First (CF) 1115 waiver in FY10 (pending CMS approval). Implementation of the new program is targeted to first reach those members who do not currently have access to home- and community-based services and also to expand services modestly for a small group of people with some home- and community-based services now.

- Members currently enrolled in the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 1915(c) waiver, administered by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, will immediately be offered enrollment in the CF Waiver for access to expanded home and community based services, including behavioral health services. The TBI waiver will be discontinued once the Community First Waiver is implemented.
- CF Waiver transition capacity will also be opened for 500 MassHealth members with disabilities under age 60 who are residing in nursing facilities. These members will have access to case management and transition services to help them move from nursing facilities into the community. MassHealth will also open enrollment to individuals with disabilities under age 60 who are living in the community and who meet a nursing facility or specialty hospital level of care. These members will have access for the first time to the expanded array of services available under the CF Waiver.
- Individuals over the age of 60 who need a nursing facility level of care will continue to have access to home and community based services, including transition services, through the Frail Elder 1915(c) waiver, and an anticipated waiver amendment will include additional services in FY10.
- In FY11, individuals aged 60+, including members in the Frail Elder 1915(c) waiver, will begin enrollment in the more expansive CF Waiver.

##### **Cash and Counseling Initiative**

H.1 permits MassHealth to implement a "cash and counseling" program to allow interested consumers the flexibility to get a cash budget. The consumer may use the budget to make arrangements for their care that best fits their circumstances, needs, and preferences.